

**LEUCAS DEODIKARII BILLORE ET HEMADRI—A NEW SPECIES OF
LAMIACEAE FROM THE SAHYADRI RANGE, MAHARASHTRA STATE**

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ABSTRACT

Leucas deodikarii Billore et Hemadri, sp. nov. collected from the Sahyadri range of Maharashtra State, is described and illustrated.

Leucas deodikarii Billore et Hemadri sp. nov. (Figs. 1-4).

Valde *L. pubescens* Benth. affinis, at differt proprio indumento undique strigoso, caule 4-angulato, folli majoribus (usque ad 15×7 cm) et claycis dentibus longioribus (usque ad 6 mm).

Holotypus (*Hemadri* 117970 A) et isotypi (*Hemadri* 117970 B-J) lacti ad Dhak khilla ad alt. ± 1100 m, ca. 27 km ad occidentem loci Junnar in dist. Poona in ditione Maharashtra, die 22 septembris anni 1968. Holotypus positus in CAL; issotypi *Hemadri* 117970 B-F in BSI; G in K; H in L; I in BLAT et J in MH.

Leucas deodikarii Billore et Hemadri sp. nov. (Figs. 1-4).

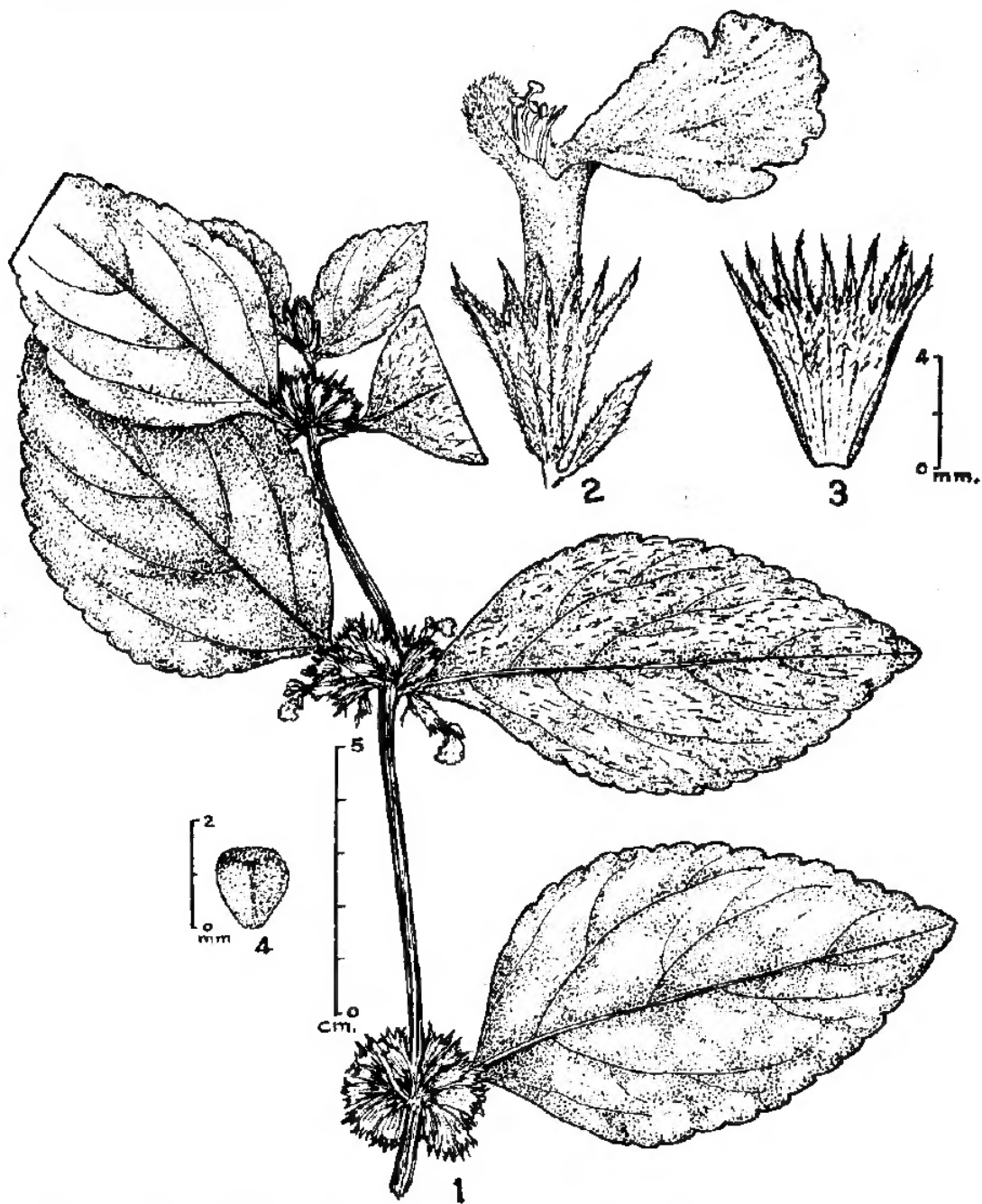
Closely allied to *Leucas pubescens* Benth. but can be distinguished by its characteristic strigose indumentum all over; obtusely 4-angled stem; larger leaves (up to 15×7 cm) and longer clayx-teeth (up to 6 mm).

Perennial erect—ascending herb or small undershrub, 1/5-1 m high. Root stock thick and woody. Stem 2-5 mm thick, obtusely quadrangular, shallow to deeply grooved, zig-zag, clothed with greyish deflexed strigose hairs. Leaves membranous, opposite, decussate, $5-16 \times 3-7.5$ cm including petiole, petiole 0.5-2 cm long; lamina broadly ovate or ovate-lanceolate with rounded-truncate and somewhat narrow base and acute apex, shallowly or deeply crenate, finely strigose above and beneath. Inflorescence a many-flowered, axillary false-whorl of congested cymes; peduncle up to 7 mm long; flower sessile or shortly pedicelled; bracts linear to oblanceolate $0.3-1.2 \times 0.1-0.2$ cm with strigose hairs along the margins and mid-rib. Calyx 0.9-1.4 cm long, campanulate and straight, about 10-ribbed, strigose mostly along the ribs, almost glabrous and reticulately veined within; teeth 10 unequal 1.5-7 mm long; triangular, acute-acuminate, strigose. Corolla bilabiate, white, ca. 1.6 cm long, tube ca. 1 cm long, glabrous within and hairy without in the upper half; upper-lip about ca. 0.5 cm long concave densely bearded with quite stiff hairs; lower-lip ca. 0.9×0.6 cm, 3-lobed, middle lobe larger, emarginate, glabrous above and hairy beneath. Stamens 4, didynamous, upper pair shorter, ascending under the upper lip; anthers orange-red, connivent, cells divaricate, ultimately confluent. Disc unequally 4-lobed. Ovary 4-partite; style bifid, subulate, upper lobe minute. Nutlets 4, 1.75-2 mm long, triquetrous, with rounded back, obovoid brownish, glabrous with rough surface.

Holotype *Hemadri* 117970 A and isotypes 117970 B-J were collected in the undergrowth of *Carvia callosa* (Nees) Brem. on the slopes of Dhak-khilla (Alt. ± 1100 m) about 27 km west of Junnar, Poona district, Maharashtra on 22nd September 1968. The holotype is deposited in CAL and the isotypes *Hemadri* 117970 B-F in BSI, G in K, H in L, I in BLAT & J in MH.

The following paratypes collected from Thana and Poona districts are deposited in the various herbaria as indicated below:

Thana district: Vinchu cha nal, near Igatpuri, Washala forest range, Billore 110557A-B dated 27-8-68 Billore 116170A-E dated 5-6-68 and Billore 116796A-B dated 21-9-68; Kedarnath hill slopes, Harischandragharh, Billore 115621 A-B dated 18-11-68 (all in BSI). Billore 115985 A-O dated 21-9-68 are prepared from the plants raised from the root-stock of Billore 116170 A-E,



Leucas deodikarii Billore et Hemadri; Figs. 1-4: (1) Flowering branch; (2) Flower; (3) Calyx split open; (4) nutlet.

in the Experimental garden of Botanical Survey of India, Poona and are distributed as follows:— A-C in *BSI*; D-E in *CAL*; F in *K*; G in *L*; H in *GH*; I in *US*; J in *MO* & K in *LE*.
Poona district: Malvandra near Bhivade Khurd, Junnar, *Hemadri* 107555 A-B dated 1-10-65 and *Hemadri* 118025 dated 23-9-68; Bailghat near Tambe, Junnar, *Hemadri* 117830 A-B dated 18-9-68; Bhivade Khurd, Junnar, *Hemadri* 117933 A-B dated 21-9-68; Ghatghar, Junnar, *Hemadri* 12058 A-B, dated 5-12-69; Foot of Rascha Jungle near Gadad, Khed, *Janardhanan* 76249 A-B.

A few root-stocks, introduced from Thana and Junnar areas, into the Experimental garden of Botanical Survey of India, Poona are thriving well and flowering and fruiting since last two years.

Leucas deodikarii Billore et Hemadri has been critically studied with reference to all the species of *Leucas* R.Br. dealt by Mukerjee (Rec. Bot. Surv. Ind. 14: 162-184, 1940) and other species subsequently published from time to time and also got it compared with the specimens available at Central National Herbarium Calcutta (*CAL*), and Kew Herbarium, London (*K*). The taxon closely resembles *L. pubescens* Benth. and also superficially with *L. angularis* Benth. However, it can be easily differentiated from the former by its characteristic stigose indumentum all over, stouter habit, sparsely hairy leaves (not tomentose beneath) and longer, size and shape of the calyx-teeth; from the latter by the shape and texture of the leaves and the size of the flowers with its hood being always much smaller than the lip.

Habitat: The plant usually prefers shady areas in the forest as an undergrowth or among thickets in the exposed ghat areas over 750 m alt.

Distribution: The taxon is so far confined to the northern limits of Sahyadri ranges of Western ghats in Poona and Thana districts of Maharashtra State. It would be of interest to locate it from some more areas all along the Western ghats.

We have the honour to dedicate this taxon to Dr. G.B. Deodikar, Director, Maharashtra Association for Cultivation of Sciences, Poona, in appreciation of his valuable contribution to Indian Botany.

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